

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, CA

SUBJECT: SAFETY OF RAPESEED OIL FOR FOOD

1. CRITICISM OF RAPESEED OIL USE FOR FOOD IN CANADIAN DIETS HAS APPEARED RECENTLY IN THE POPULAR PRESS PARTICULARLY IN MONTREAL. THIS CRITICISM RELATES TO THE HEALTH ISSUE OF ERUCIC ACID IN THE OIL WHICH SURFACED AT AN INTERNATIONAL OILSEEDS CONFERENCE IN ST. ADELE, QUEBEC IN 1969 OR 1970. SINCE THAT TIME PLANT BREEDERS HAVE DEVELOPED VARIETIES FREE OF ERUCIC ACID.

2. THE GOC HAS NOT YET DECIDED ON A STRATEGY FOR APPROACHING US/FDA FOR GRAS LISTING OF EDIBLE RAPESEED OIL FROM THE LOW ERUCIC VARIETIES. THE EXCHANGE OF TELEGRAMS WHICH FOLLOWS INDICATES GREATER SUPPORT FROM HEALTH AND WELFARE CANADA THAN HAS BEEN EVIDENT HERETOFORE.

3. QUOTE: HONORABLE OTTO E. LANG, MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION AND MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WHEAT BOARD. SERIOUS DAMAGE IS BEING DONE TO RAPESEED OIL BY IRRESPONSIBLE STATEMENTS INCLUDING ONE THAT STATES THAT

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RAPESEED OIL IS TOXIC TO HUMANS AS RELEASED BY CAMILL MONTPETIT, PRESIDENT OF THE CO-DP CONSUMERS OF MONTREAL ON JANUARY 31 AND SUBSEQUENTLY PUBLISHED IN THE JOURNAL DE MONTREAL AND OTHER NEWSPAPERS AND RADIO STATIONS IN QUEBEC. THESE STATEMENTS ARE NOW BEING PICKED UP BY NEWSPAPERS IN WESTERN CANADA AND ARE POSING A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE ENTIRE INDUSTRY. IN FACT SOME OF THE LARGE

CUSTOMERS IN QUEBEC HAVE DELISTED RAPESEED OIL. OTHERS ARE RETURNING STOCKS TO SUPPLIERS. IT IS THEREFORE MOST URGENT THAT THE GOC RELEASE CURRENT INFORMATION OF THE POSITIVE NUTRITIONAL BENEFITS OF RAPESEED OIL AND ITS SAFETY FOR ALL USES. REFERENCE TO NEGATIVE INTERPRETATION SHOULD BE AVOIDED. THE RAPESEED ASSOCIATION OF CANADA STANDS READY TO COOPERATE FULLY AT ALL TIMES IN SUPPLYING ACCURATE AND UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION. SIGNED G.S. BOULTER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RAPESEED ASSOCIATION OF CANADA, VANCOUVER, B.C. UNQUOTE.

4. QUOTE: ATTENTION RAPESEED ASSOCIATION OF CANADA, 355 BURRARD STREET, VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA. RE RAPESEED OIL. I HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE THAT YOU HAVE CONCERN REGARDING THE SAFETY OF CANADIAN RAPESEED OIL AS A RESULT OF STATEMENTS MADE BY M. MONTPETIT. LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT ON THE BASIS OF RESEARCH CONDUCTED BY THE HEALTH PROTECTION BRANCH AND STUDIES UNDERTAKEN BY CANADA AGRICULTURE AND ELSEWHERE, THE HEALTH PROTECTION BRANCH HAS GIVEN THE PRODUCT A CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH AS A SOURCE OF FAT IN CANADIAN DIETS. CANADIAN RAPESEED OIL IS A SAFE AND NUTRITIOUS INGREDIENT OF MARGARINES, SALAD, COOKING AND FRYING OILS AND SHORTENINGS. SIGNED A.B. MORRISON, PH.D. ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER, HEALTH PROTECTION BRANCH, HEALTH AND WELFARE CANADA. UNQUOTE
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5. ACTING AGATT OBTAINED THE FOREGOING CABLES WHILE ATTENDING 11TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE RAPESEED ASSOCIATION OF CANADA IN EDMONTON, ALBERTA MARCH 21-23. SIDE DISCUSSIONS HELD AT ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE MAKE IT CLEAR THAT ALBERTA IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN FINDING INCREASING OUTLETS FOR RAPESEED OIL. GRAS LISTING IS THOUGHT OF AS A MARKETING TOOL IN TRADE WITH THIRD COUNTRIES; HOWEVER, ALBERTA WOULD ALSO EXPECT TO EXPORT EDIBLE RAPESEED OIL TO THE WESTERN UNITED STATES. PLACKE

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